

WE CLAIM

1. Immunogenic composition comprising NY-ESO-1 protein and a saponin based adjuvant.
2. The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the NY-ESO-1 protein has the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 1
3. The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein said saponin based adjuvant further comprises sterol.
4. The immunogenic composition of claim 3, wherein said saponin based adjuvant is an ISCOM or an ISCOMATRIX adjuvant
5. The immunogenic composition of claim 1, in an intramuscular dosage form.
6. The immunogenic composition of claim 1, in an intradermal form.
7. An isolated peptide comprising at least amino acids 89-99 of NY-ESO-1 and consisting of no more than amino acids 85-102 of NY-ESO-1.
8. The isolated peptide of claim 7, wherein said peptide binds to and is presented by an MHC molecule.
9. The isolated peptide of claim 8, wherein said peptide binds to an MHC molecule, wherein said MHC molecule is a class II molecule, and stimulates CD4⁺ cells when bound to said MHC class II molecule.
10. The isolated peptide of claim 9, wherein said MHC molecule is an HLA molecule.
11. The isolated peptide of claim 10, wherein said HLA molecule is an HLA-DR molecule.
12. An isolated peptide consisting of amino acids 89-100 of NY-ESO-1.
13. An isolated peptide consisting of amino acids 86-99 of NY-ESO-1.
14. A method for stimulating a T cell response, comprising contacting a T cell containing sample with a complex of the peptide of claim 7 and the MHC molecule to which it binds, under conditions favoring stimulation of a T cell response.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said MHC molecule is a class II molecule, and said T cell response is a CD4⁺ T cell response.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said MHC molecule is an HLA molecule.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein said HLA molecule is an HLA-DR molecule.
18. A method for stimulating a T cell response, comprising contacting a T cell containing sample with a complex of the peptide of claim 11 and the MHC molecule to which it binds, under conditions favoring stimulation of a T cell response.
19. A method for stimulating a T cell response, comprising contacting a T cell containing sample with a complex of the peptide of claim 12 and the MHC molecule to which it binds, under conditions favoring stimulation of a T cell response.
20. A method for treating a subject suffering from or in need of prophylaxis for a cancer, cells of which express NY-ESO-1, comprising administering to said subject an amount of a composition containing NY-ESO-1 protein and a saponin based adjuvant, sufficient to induce an antibody response to NY-ESO-1 in said subject.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the amount of said compositions is sufficient to induce both a CD4⁺ and a CD8⁺ T cell response.
22. The method of claim 20, comprising administering said composition intramuscularly or subcutaneously.
23. The method of claim 20, wherein said saponin based adjuvant further comprises sterol.
24. The method of claim 20, wherein said saponin based adjuvant is an ISCOM or an ISCOMATRIX adjuvant.
25. The method of claim 20, comprising administering equal amounts of NY-ESO-1 and saponin based adjuvant to said subject.
26. The method of claim 20, comprising administering from about 10 to about 500 μ g of NY-ESO-1 protein to subject.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein said subject is affected with a tumor.
28. A method for stimulating an immune response comprising administering the immunogenic composition of claim 1 to a subject in need thereof in an amount sufficient to generate an immune response.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein said immunogenic response comprises an antibody response.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein said immunogenic response comprises a T cell response.
31. The method of claim 28, wherein said immunogenic response comprises an antibody and a T cell response.
32. The method of claim 28, comprising administering about 100 µg of NY-ESO-1 to said subject.
33. The method of claim 28, comprising administering said composition intramuscularly or intradermally.